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Honkong, January 3rd, 1876.

## The Daily Press.

Hongkong, March 21st, 1876.

One of the Japanese native prints gives a rather curious corroboration of our supposition that China had denied active support to Corea. It states that the Corean Government had relied upon Chinese support all through the recent difficulty, did not long since sent an Ambassador to Peking to try and induce the Authorities there to enter into an offensive and defensive alliance with them against foreigners, including, of course, the Japanese. But the statesmen of Peking did not see the wisdom of this arrangement, and informed the Corean Envoy that they could not assist his country openly, but would do so secretly with arms and ammunition. If correct, this was certainly not very honourable conduct, nor does it reflect much credit upon the moral courage of the Chinese Government. Afraid to incur the hostility of Japan, they were still willing to put arms into the hands of her foe, and thus give her, as we speak, a stab in the back. But the report may be false. It is to be hoped, at all events, that it has no foundation in fact. According to the *Choya Shimbun*, however, the Chinese Government endeavoured to convince the Corean Ambassador that it would be best for Corea to give in, and throw open some of her ports to trade, reasoning with him something after the following fashion:—"Even China, the largest empire in the world, cannot close the country of foreigners. Your country, a small one, cannot stand against them. And therefore according to the circumstances of the present times, it is far better for you to open your ports for trade." This train of argument was not, it would seem, altogether without its effect. The Coreans, left to their own devices, set unable to bear the justly incurred Japanese, and, after a show of resistance, yielded reluctantly to their demands. The full text of the treaty, signed by Mr. Kurono and the Corean Government on the 27th ultimo, has not yet been published, but an outline of it has appeared. From this we gather the following information. Corea henceforward to be recognized as an independent nation, and no more tribute is to be paid by her to Japan. These ports are to be opened to trade—Fusan from the date of the treaty, and the second and third ports, which are to be hereafter selected, in fifteen and twenty months respectively. All Japanese vessels wrecked on the coast of Corea are to receive every assistance, both with respect to people and property. Permission is accorded to the Japanese Government to survey the Corean coast with the vessels of the Japanese Navy. The regulations for trade are to be arranged within six months from the date of the treaty. It is further stipulated that Corean officials shall not interfere with the commerce between the two nations, and that a Corean Legation shall be opened at

Kedo and a Japanese Legation at Kono. From this sketch of its treaty, it will be seen that the Japanese have secured some substantial concessions, while the Coreans on their part have gained something in the recognition by the Yedo Government of the independence of their country. It may be asked, however, whether the surrender by the Japanese of all future claim on Corea, for payment of tribute will secure the independence of that country. Will China follow the example of Japan? After refusing aid to the ways of China are not the ways of Western Powers, and it is very doubtful whether the Government which recently accepted tribute from Loo-choo after the islands had been formally recognized as belonging to Japan, will feel disposed to turn away the annual offerings of Corea.

A telegram dated Berlin, February 28th, says:—The *Rheinsteiger* states that the Governments of the United States and England and Prussia, have promised to support any step that the German Emperor may take to secure the safety of the German schooner *Asiad*, which was plundered off Foochow last September by Chinese inhabitants. It is hoped that from this action satisfaction may be obtained for the outrage, and that the Chinese Government be convinced of the necessity of taking in hand to prevent similar occurrences in future.

An inquest was held yesterday on the body of the woman drowned at Stonecutters' Island, who was reported to have been a Spanish sailor, named *Antonio*. She was found floating in the sea, and the coroner's jury returned a verdict of accidental drowning. The bodies of the two children have not been found.

The ship *Wittler* left San Francisco for Manila on the 23rd ultimo. The *Bruselas*, cleared from Sydney N.S.W., for Shanghai on the 11th ultimo. The *Harriet Weston*, from Hongkong, arrived at Sydney, New South Wales, on the 12th ultimo.

The *Horatio Weston*, from Foochow, arrived at Sydney, New South Wales, on the 14th ultimo.

The *Hoohi Shishim*, in referring to the opening steamship line to the Japanese ports and China, mentions the report that the P. & O. Company is likely to receive the support of the Chinese in the hour of her need, and advised her to knuckle under to Japan, it would be inconsistent to longer exact it. But the ways of China are not the ways of Western Powers, and it is very doubtful whether the Government which recently accepted tribute from Loo-choo after the islands had been formally recognized as belonging to Japan, will feel disposed to turn away the annual offerings of Corea.

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